

REMARKS

The final Office Action dated 31 December 2001 has been reviewed and respectfully submitted in response thereto are the above amendments to the specification and claims, and the following remarks. Claims 21 and 22 have been amended. Thus, claims 7-16 and 21-24 are currently pending in the application, and are respectfully submitted for reconsideration by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that this reply places the application in condition for allowance, or at least places the application in better form for appeal.

Applicants have amended the specification to alternately describe the relationship of the pin with respect to the aperture of the valve seat. Applicants respectfully assert that this amendment is supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed, e.g., by figure 5, and that no new matter has been added.

Claims 7-16 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite, and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter that was not described in the specification. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Claim 21 recites the relationship of the pin with respect to the aperture of the valve seat such that the pin includes "a second portion adapted to occlude an aperture of a valve seat." It is respectfully submitted that the combination of features recited in claim 21, including this relationship of the pin with respect to the aperture of the valve seat, is supported at least by Applicants' Figure 5 as originally filed, and that no new matter has been added. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claim 21 fully complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and that the rejections thereunder should be withdrawn.

There being no other rejections of independent claim 21, it is respectfully submitted that the claim is allowable, and an early indication to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claim 22 has been amended for consistency with claim 21. It is respectfully submitted that claims 7-16 and 22-24 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 21, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim, as well as for the additionally recited features. Thus, Applicants also respectfully request allowance of these dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, or at least in better form for appeal. Moreover, entry of

this reply is respectfully submitted to be appropriate at least because no new issues are raised, no new matter is added, and no additional claims are added.


Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made by this amendment. The attached pages are captioned Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

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By: 
Scott J. Anchell
Reg. No. 35,035

CUSTOMER NO. 009629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel.: (202) 739-3000

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Applicants have amended the paragraph that was added by the reply filed 7 November 2001. This paragraph was added on page 4, after the original paragraph that ends on line 5.

As shown in figure 5, the pin can include a first portion that is at least partially surrounded by the bobbin 6, and can also include a second portion that can [permit and prohibit flow through] occlude the aperture of the valve seat 13. The first and second portions can be adjacent to each other. In a preferred embodiment, the first portion has a cross-sectional area that is greater than a cross-sectional area of the second portion.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Applicants have amended claims 21 and 22 as follows:

21. (Amended) A purge solenoid valve assembly having a valve driven by a solenoid, the assembly comprising:
- a bobbin;
 - a wire wound around the bobbin;
 - at least one terminal electrically connected to the wire; and
 - an overmolded cap generally encapsulating the bobbin and the wire, the overmolded cap including a connector body formation partially encapsulating the at least one terminal; and
 - a pin having a first portion at least partially surrounded by the bobbin adjacent a second portion adapted [for prohibiting flow through] to occlude an aperture of a valve seat, the first portion having a cross-sectional area greater than a cross-sectional area of the second portion, the pin displaceable with respect to the bobbin when an electric current flows through the wire.
22. (Amended) The assembly according to claim 21, [further comprising: a] wherein the valve seat is disposed at an outlet of the assembly, [the valve seat including an] and the aperture is sized to receive the second portion of the pin so as to [prohibit flow] occlude the aperture through the valve seat.

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